

Governor Fredis Refunjol officially opens Parliamentary sessions 2013-2014



Aruba's Parliament began their 2013-2014 sessions yesterday, September 10, with the

annual ritual of Governor Fredis Refunjol, the Dutch Monarchy's official represen-

tative on Aruba, presenting a "State of the Union" address.
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Prior to speaking to parliament members and various officials, including Prime Minister Mike Eman, Governor Refunjol and his wife, Clarette, were welcomed outside the parliament building on L.G. Smith Boulevard in Oranjestad by an honor guard of the Royal Dutch Marines. The Orkestra Harmonico Arubano played Aruba's National Anthem "Aruba Dushi Terra," and the governor was escorted to the parliamentary suite.

Governor Refunjol's discourse touched on the many

issues that lawmakers will address over the coming year, and one of the most historic to take place in 2013, the inauguration of a new monarch, with HRM King Willem-Alexander ascending to the throne on April 30. He also mentioned that the King and Queen Maxima are expected for a royal visit in November, "which will allow are people the opportunity to become acquainted with their new monarch, and he with us."

Before declaring the new parliament officially in session, he mentioned the need

for responsible governance, and the changes that will very possibly be taking place in 17 days, when Aruba will conduct their elections held every four years for the seats of parliament. Until that time, those presently in office should think of the legacy they will leave those that may follow them.

"Our government must operate in a responsible and diligent many to insure our sustainability and prosperity for one and all," he reminded the gathering. "We must adapt to a new system and present and future needs."

Governor Refunjol described Aruba as "an example of a living democracy," and charged the legislators to remember that "confidence in our government is para-

mount." President of Parliament Paul Croes thanked the Governor for his remarks and

the guidance they will provide legislators during their tenure.
By Rosalie Klein



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